

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, and 12 are amended to include the features of claim 16, and claim 16 has been cancelled. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 16, which has been incorporated into claims 1, 10 and 12.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thorpe (U.S. Patent No. 4,938,130) in view of Dubuit (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,740). Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thorpe in view of Dubuit, and further in view of Siegeritz (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0122208). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thorpe in view of Dubuit, and further in view of Koizumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,985).

Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended to include the allowable features of claim 16. The rejections are therefore moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

JAO:JAR/tbm

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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